

Message Text

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14-10

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 PM-03

DLOS-05 EB-07 H-02 L-02 FMC-02 DODE-00 /033 W

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R 140618Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 369

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, TS, PP

SUBJECT: PNG PROBLEMS WITH TAIWANESE FISHING VESSELS

1. RICH FISHING WATERS AROUND PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAVE LED FOREIGN VESSELS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF TAIWAN AND JAPAN, TO FISH WITHOUT LICENSES WITHIN PNG'S 12-MILE LIMIT. PNG FISHERIES ACT 1974 WAS ENFORCED FOR FIRST TIME WHEN TAIWANESE CAPTAIN WAS FINED AUSTRALIAN DOLS 900 AND HIS VESSEL CONFISCATED ON OCT. 1, 1974. (PORT MORESBY 267). GPNG BEGAN TAKING EVEN STRONGER LINE SINCE THEN, ESPECIALLY IN THE MILNE BAY AREA.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, GPNG SEIZED TWO TAIWANESE BOATS IN OCT. AND NOV. 1974, (HUANG SHANG FAR AND HSIN SHIEW NO. 1) AND THEY WERE RELEASED ONLY IN FEBRUARY 1975. CAPTAINS OF BOTH VESSELS WERE GIVEN JAIL SENTENCES AFTER TRIAL, AND FINES WERE LEVIED. SHIPS WERE IMPOUNDED UNTIL MONEY WAS SENT FROM TAIWAN TO PAY FINES.

3. PROBLEM GOT INTO DOMESTIC POLITICS WHEN OPPOSITION PARTIES ACCUSED COALITION GOVERNMENT OF BEING TOO HARSH. CHIEF MINISTER SOMARE RESPONDED BY ANNOUNCING:

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QTE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALISE THAT THESE VESSELS, WHICH

OPERATE ON A RUTHLESS OWNER/CREW PROFIT SHARING BASIS
WITH THE OWNER CLAIMING THE LIONS SHARE OF THE PROFIT,
OFTEN ACT IN DELIBERATE BREACH OF THE LAW.

QTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS OBLIGED TO TAKE THE STRONGEST
MEASURES POSSIBLE TO DISCOURAGE THE CONTINUED ILLEGAL
EXPLOITATION OF A MAJOR NATURAL RESOURCE BY FOREIGN
INTERESTS. UNQTE

4. GPNG BELIEVES GOVERNMENTS OF TAIWAN AND JAPAN
SHOULD TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO MAKE THEIR VESSELS
OBSERVE PNG LAW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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